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EXAMINER

DICKERSON, CHAD S

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/688,911	Applicant(s) YOON, TAE-JUNG	
	Examiner CHAD DICKERSON	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14 and 16-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14 and 16-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14, 16-35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The amendment to the claims has necessitated a new ground(s) of rejection. However, the reference of Tsukamoto '033 still applies to the amended claim language and the Examiner would like to address some of the Applicant's assertions in the paragraphs below.

In the Tsukamoto system, it is clear that the CPU (101) controls the functions of the apparatus shown in figure 1¹. The functions of the apparatus, whether already on the device or additionally added, are only executed by the instructions from the ROM (102) performed by the CPU of this device. The main application of the overall apparatus is stored in ROM of the device, since the instructions from the ROM are used to control the overall device. The program instructions in the ROM can be used to execute commands to control the other additional features introduced to the apparatus. For example, the ROM is used to contain instructions on implementing the functionality of the program IC card inserted into a card slot². Regarding the Third embodiment in Tsukamoto, the different cards and additional functions used are all operated in accordance with a program previously stored in the ROM. In other words, if a card introduces an additional feature to the printing device, there has to be a program in ROM that will interact with the IC Card program to either store it in RAM for execution or

¹ See Tsukamoto '033 at paragraph [0029].

² Id. at paragraphs [0115], [0127] and [0162]-[0174].

simply execute the program directly from the card in order to perform the feature associated with the inserted card³. Thus, the newly added program has to work with the program stored in the ROM that the CPU implements in order to carry out commands in the image forming apparatus that will utilize the additional feature introduced to the printing system. Therefore, the rejection of the independent claim of having a plug-in program of an application program executed by the apparatus is still believed to be performed by the Tsukamoto reference.

Regarding the new claim features of claims 21-24, the Tsukamoto reference discloses the claimed features. The feature of claim 21 is disclosed since the program on the IC card has to be connected to the main program running the overall printing device in order for the function associated with the IC card to operate⁴. The feature of claims 22 and 23 is performed by the Tsukamoto reference since an additional function card (1602) is used to introduce a function that was previously impossible for the CPU (101) to do without the function card and this provides a communication protocol for communicating with several external apparatuses⁵. The feature of claim 24 is performed by changing an old feature to a new feature that is more up to date⁶. The other claims not representing the features of claims 14 and 16-24 are still disclosed by the reference of Tsukamoto as well since they represent features that the were disclosed by the Tsukamoto reference in previously presented but cancelled claims.

³ Id. at paragraphs [0079], [0161]-[0165] and [0172].

⁴ Id. at paragraphs [0079], [0126]-[0129] and [0161]-[0173].

⁵ ...

⁶ Id. at paragraph [0154].

Therefore, the rejection of the claims with the reference of Tsukamoto is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 14 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsukamoto '033 (US Pub No 2002/0048033).

Re claim 14: Tsukamoto '033 discloses a method of controlling an image processing apparatus, the method comprising:

removable receiving a portable storage unit in a host unit (i.e. there are a plurality of card slots (121 and 122), considered as host units in Tsukamoto '033 that are able to receive memory cards in the system. The memory cards in the system can be considered as portable storage units since they can be taken in and out of the printing apparatus's card slots in figure 26; see figs. 3, 17, 20, 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0172]);

determining whether the portable storage unit includes an execution file or an image data file (i.e. in the system, a card storing data, which can be image data or a program, can be used. The program relating to the CPU (101) that reads the card can distribute whether the card contains a program to execute a function or data that is simply exchanged between the memory card and RAM (103). The program IC card and

interface card can be considered as a memory card since they both either to a function to be realized by a printer or the software to perform the function; see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0030] and [0115]-[0134]); and

executing an application program of the image processing apparatus (i.e. the data communication apparatus is controlled by a program, considered as the application program, stored in ROM (102); see paragraph [0029]); and

executing the execution file stored in the portable storage unit as a plug-in program of the application program executed in the image processing apparatus, if the portable storage unit stores the execution file (i.e. different cards that store different functions can be used to expand the apparatus in the system. A program IC card can store a program to be used in conjunction with a card that introduces the actual feature to realize the other cards functionality. Also, a card can be placed in the card slot and the program on the card can be read to perform the function on the card. The interface card can be installed in an apparatus to realize an additional function on the printer introduce by the interface card. The program stored in the ROM is utilized to execute the programs on the IC cards inserted in the card slots. Since the program in ROM is used to operate the inserted card and associated function, then this feature is considered as having a plug-in program of the application program being executed; see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0029], [0030], [0115]-[0134] and [0166]-[0173]),

wherein the execution file includes a plug-in program (i.e. the program IC card (1603) associated with the additional function card (1602) stores a program, analogous to a plug-in program, that functions as a device driver in the system to execute the

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additional function on the facsimile device. The CPU (101) of the body executes the program of the program IC card (1603) in order to execute the type of additional function introduced by the additional function card (1602); see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0141]-[0187]).

Re claim 16: Tsukamoto '033 discloses the method of claim 14, further comprising:

recognizing the portable storage unit as a general storage medium when the portable storage unit includes no execution file or the function for the image processing apparatus is not executed (i.e. card insertion is detected by the system. The data on the card is then detected by the system. The CPU (101) executes pre-determined software to process the card and transmits/receives data from the memory (601) from the card to the RAM (103). The card is recognized as a general storage device when a program is not found to be executed by the CPU (101) and simple data is transferred to the RAM (103) in the system; see paragraphs [0030]-[0047] and [0115]-[0134]).

Re claim 17: Tsukamoto '033 discloses the method of claim 14, wherein the execution file is connected to a main program (i.e. in the system, Tsukamoto '033 discloses having the operation of the communication apparatus, or image processing apparatus, performed in accordance with a program previously stored in the ROM (102). With different functions being performed that are associated with the inserted cards, the program in the ROM is used to perform or implement the programs that are on the program cards inserted in the card slots that are operated on the communication

apparatus, or image processing apparatus, to perform some function. Since the program in the ROM instructs the CPU to utilize a program in the interface cards to perform a feature on the apparatus, the implementation of the program by the CPU is considered analogous to the connection between a main program and a file for executing a function since the program in the ROM orders the gathering of the program on a inserted card and the ROM uses the program to perform functions through the CPU in the apparatus, which in turn orders functions of the body apparatus to perform a specific feature; see paragraphs [0015]-[01356]), and is executed in the image processing apparatus (i.e. the features that are associated with the programs on the inserted cards are utilized by the program stored in the ROM in the body apparatus to execute the associated function on the apparatus; see paragraphs [0015]-[01356])).

Re claim 18: Tsukamoto '033 discloses an image processing apparatus having at least one host unit removably receiving a portable storage unit for storing one of image data and an execution file (i.e. the system contains at least one card slot that is able to receive a card in a removable manner that may be able to store a program or data to be transferred to the ROM of the body apparatus; see paragraphs [0111] and [0127]), the apparatus comprising:

a detection unit detecting whether the portable storage unit is connected to the host unit (i.e. in the system, detecting whether a card that stores information relating to a program that executes a function is performed by Tsukamoto '033. The system checks to see if a certain card is presently in the card slot in the system; see figs. 3, 17

and 20; paragraphs [0044]-[0050], [0096] and [0097]), and determining whether the portable storage unit includes an execution file when detecting the portable storage unit is connected to the host unit (i.e. in the system, a card storing data, which can be image data or a program, can be used. The program relating to the CPU (101) that reads the card can distribute whether the card contains a program to execute a function or data that is simply exchanged between the memory card and RAM (103). The program IC card and interface card can be considered as a memory card since they both either to a function to be realized by a printer or the software to perform the function; see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0030] and [0115]-[0134]); and

a control unit executing the execution file stored in the portable storage unit, if the detection unit detects the execution file in the portable storage unit as a plug-in program of an application program executed by the image processing apparatus (i.e. different cards that store different functions can be used to expand the apparatus in the system. A program IC card can store a program to be used in conjunction with a card that introduces the actual feature to realize the other cards functionality. Also, a card can be placed in the card slot and the program on the card can be read to perform the function on the card. The interface card can be installed in an apparatus to realize an additional function on the printer introduced by the interface card. The program stored in the ROM is utilized to execute the programs on the IC cards inserted in the card slots. Since the program in ROM is used to operate the inserted card and associated function, then this feature is considered as having a plug-in program of the application program being

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executed; see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0029], [0030], [0115]-[0134] and [0166]-[0173]).

Re claim 19: Tsukamoto '033 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 18, wherein if the function of the image processing apparatus is not executed, or the portable storage unit does not store the execution file, the control unit recognizes the portable storage unit as a general storage medium (i.e. card insertion is detected by the system. The data on the card is then detected by the system. The CPU (101) executes pre-determined software to process the card and transmits/receives data from the memory (601) from the card to the RAM (103). The card is recognized as a general storage device when a program is not found to be executed by the CPU (101) and simple data is transferred to the RAM (103) in the system; see paragraphs [0030]-[0047] and [0115]-[0134]).

Re claim 20: Tsukamoto '033 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 18, wherein the plug-in program is connected to a main program (i.e. in the system, Tsukamoto '033 discloses having the operation of the communication apparatus, or image processing apparatus, performed in accordance with a program previously stored in the ROM (102). With different functions being performed that are associated with the inserted cards, the program in the ROM is used to perform or implement the programs that are on the program cards inserted in the card slots that are operated on the communication apparatus, or image processing apparatus, to perform some function.

Since the program in the ROM instructs the CPU to utilize a program in the interface cards to perform a feature on the apparatus, the implementation of the program by the CPU is considered analogous to the connection between a main program and a file for executing a function since the program in the ROM orders the gathering of the program on a inserted card and the ROM uses the program to perform functions through the CPU in the apparatus, which in turn orders functions of the body apparatus to perform a specific feature; see paragraphs [0015]-[01356]), and is executed in the image processing apparatus (i.e. the features that are associated with the programs on the inserted cards are utilized by the program stored in the ROM in the body apparatus to execute the associated function on the apparatus; see paragraphs [0015]-[01356])).

Re claim 21: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the method of claim 14, wherein the plug-in program does not have an independent interface and can only be used by being connected with the application program (i.e. the program on the IC card has to be connected to the main program running the overall printing device in order for the function associated with the IC card to operate; see paragraphs [0079], [0126]-[0129] and [0161]-[0173])).

Re claim 22: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the method of claim 14, wherein the plug-in program provides an interface/communication protocol functionality for communicating with a new external apparatus (i.e. Tsukamoto '033 provides a communication protocol for communicating

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with several external apparatuses; see paragraphs [0079], [0126]-[0129] and [0161]-[0173]).

Re claim 23: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the method of claim 14, wherein the plug-in program provides a new printer function that was not previously supported by the image processing apparatus (i.e. in the Tsukamoto reference, an additional function card (1602) is used to introduce a function that was previously impossible for the CPU (101) to do without the function card; see paragraphs [0079], [0126]-[0129] and [0161]-[0173]).

Re claim 24: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the method of claim 14, wherein the plug-in program provides an upgrade printer function (i.e. the above feature is performed by changing an old feature to a new feature that is more up to date; see paragraph [0154]).

Re claim 25: The method of claim 14, further comprising:

determining whether the portable storage unit includes an image data file (i.e. in the system, a card storing data, which can be image data or a program, can be used. The program relating to the CPU (101) that reads the card can distribute whether the card contains a program to execute a function or data that is simply exchanged between the memory card and RAM (103). The program IC card and interface card can be considered as a memory card since they both either to a function to be realized by a

printer or the software to perform the function; see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0030] and [0115]-[0134]); and

performing printer operations of the image processing apparatus according to the image data file included in the portable storage unit (i.e. with the recording portion of the data communication apparatus, the apparatus can perform printer operations according to the image data accepted into the system; see paragraphs [0035]-[0038]).

Re claim 26: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the method of claim 14, wherein the host unit comprises a card slot to receive a data card and an interface card for data communication with an external apparatus (i.e. an interface portion (120) has two card slots (121 and 122) to enable two communication cards to be connected. The card slots can be considered as host units. In Tsukamoto '033, an additional function card (1602) adds a function to the facsimile apparatus. The program IC card (1603) is used for storing a program and data for using the function from the additional function card, which can also be considered as a portable storage unit. The program IC card (1603) is considered to function as the data card since the program IC card (1603) has both data and a program, similar to a specific execution file that needs to be executed in order to realize a certain function in the facsimile apparatus of Tsukamoto'033. Also, an interface card (1303) is used for establishing the connection with an external personal computer (1302); see figs. 1, 26-28, 31-40; paragraphs [0044]-[0046], [0143]-[0165]).

Re claim 27: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the method of claim 26, further comprising:

detecting whether a memory card installed in the card installed in the card slot is the data card or the interface card (i.e. the system of Tsukamoto '033, the card slot driver software (1728 and 1730) is operated to correspond with a variety of cards in the card slots, considered as host units, in order to detect the type of card in the card slots. With the system of Tsukamoto '033 using both interface cards and cards that store programs that are considered as portable storage units, analogous to a specific execution file, with data, it is clearly shown in figures 41 and 42, with a reference to paragraph [0176], that the feature of detecting which specific card is in the card slot is performed; see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0166]-[0185]); and

upon determining that the interface card is installed in the card slot, executing the interface card and controlling data communication with the external apparatus according to the executing interface card (i.e. in the system of Tsukamoto '033, the CPU (101) goes through the process checking to see what type of card is in the card slots, which is considered as a host units, then it also checks to see if the card should be executed, based on corresponding software present in the body that will allow the functionality of the software on the card in the slot. If the card in the slot matches up with the software in the body, the function of the card can be performed. For example, if the card in the slot relates to an interface card, such as an interface card mentioned in paragraph [0143], then once the system recognizes that the software on the card does not contradict the software in the body, the communication between the body and the

personal computer can be performed using the software that is on the interface card. This same example is for the modem used in the system as well; see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0141]-[0187]).

Re claim 28: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 18, wherein the plug-in program does not have an independent interface and can only be used by being connected with the application program (i.e. the program on the IC card has to be connected to the main program running the overall printing device in order for the function associated with the IC card to operate; see paragraphs [0079], [0126]-[0129] and [0161]-[0173]).

Re claim 29: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 18, wherein the plug-in program provides an interface/communication protocol functionality for communicating with a new external apparatus (i.e. Tsukamoto '033 provides a communication protocol for communicating with several external apparatuses; see paragraphs [0079], [0126]-[0129] and [0161]-[0173]).

Re claim 30: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 18, wherein the plug-in program provides a new printer function that was not previously supported by

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the image processing apparatus (i.e. in the Tsukamoto reference, an additional function card (1602) is used to introduce a function that was previously impossible for the CPU (101) to do without the function card; see paragraphs [0079], [0126]-[0129] and [0161]-[0173]).

Re claim 31: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 18, wherein the plug-in program provides an upgrade printer function (i.e. the above feature is performed by changing an old feature to a new feature that is more up to date; see paragraph [0154]).

Re claim 32: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 18, wherein the detection unit determines whether the portable storage unit includes an image data file when it is detected that the portable storage unit is connected to the host unit (i.e. in the system, a card storing data, which can be image data or a program, can be used. The program relating to the CPU (101) that reads the card can distribute whether the card contains a program to execute a function or data that is simply exchanged between the memory card and RAM (103). The program IC card and interface card can be considered as a memory card since they both either to a function to be realized by a printer or the software to perform the function; see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0030]

and [0115]-[0134].

Re claim 33: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:

a printer unit to perform printing operations according to the image data file included in the portable storage unit (i.e. with the recording portion of the data communication apparatus, the apparatus can perform printer operations according to the image data accepted into the system; see paragraphs [0035]-[0038]).

Re claim 34: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 18, wherein the host unit comprises a card slot to receive a data card and an interface card for data communication with an external apparatus (i.e. an interface portion (120) has two card slots (121 and 122) to enable two communication cards to be connected. The card slots can be considered as host units. In Tsukamoto '033, an additional function card (1602) adds a function to the facsimile apparatus. The program IC card (1603) is used for storing a program and data for using the function from the additional function card, which can also be considered as a portable storage unit. The program IC card (1603) is considered to function as the data card since the program IC card (1603) has both data and a program, similar to a specific execution file that needs to be executed in order to realize a certain function in the facsimile apparatus of Tsukamoto'033. Also, an interface

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card (1303) is used for establishing the connection with an external personal computer (1302); see figs. 1, 26-28, 31-40; paragraphs [0044]-[0046], [0143]-[0165]).

Re claim 35: The teachings of Tsukamoto '033 are disclosed above.

Tsukamoto '033 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:

a detecting unit to detect whether a memory card installed in the card slot is the data card or the interface card (i.e. the system of Tsukamoto '033, the card slot driver software (1728 and 1730) is operated to correspond with a variety of cards in the card slots, considered as host units, in order to detect the type of card in the card slots. With the system of Tsukamoto '033 using both interface cards and cards that store programs that are considered as portable storage units, analogous to a specific execution file, with data, it is clearly shown in figures 41 and 42, with a reference to paragraph [0176], that the feature of detecting which specific card is in the card slot is performed; see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0166]-[0185]); and

a control unit to determine whether to execute the interface card, if the interface card is installed in the card slot according to the detection unit, and to communicate with the external apparatus via the interface card (i.e. in the system of Tsukamoto '033, the CPU (101)

goes through the process checking to see what type of card is in the card slots, which is considered as a host units, then it also checks to see if the card should be executed, based on corresponding software present in the body that will allow the functionality of

the software on the card in the slot. If the card in the slot matches up with the software in the body, the function of the card can be performed. For example, if the card in the slot relates to an interface card, such as an interface card mentioned in paragraph [0143], then once the system recognizes that the software on the card does not contradict the software in the body, the communication between the body and the personal computer can be performed using the software that is on the interface card. This same example is for the modem used in the system as well; see figs. 26-28, 31-42; paragraphs [0141]-[0187]).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
5. Suzuki '288 (USP 5027288) discloses systems in which a recording apparatus can have various recording functions altered and add various other functions using a portable storage means such as an IC card.
6. Murata '067 (USP 6330067) discloses a digital copying machine that has a card slot that is able to determine if a card is present in the card slot and the type of information present on the card to be download onto the copying machine and processed in the digital device.
7. Fukui (USP 5678135) discloses a system that updates an image forming apparatus with new programs that allow newly added features to function with the printing device. The programs may be provided from a network connected source or a

storage medium inside the portable extension part connected to the apparatus to expand the printing device's features.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAD DICKERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571)-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. D./

/Chad Dickerson/

Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Twyler L. Haskins/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625